

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

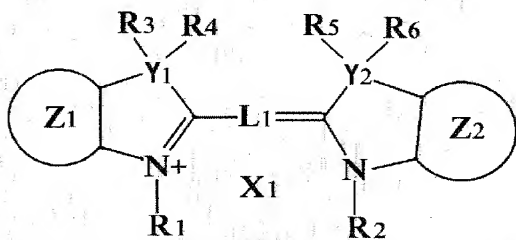
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical recording medium having a recording layer to which information is recorded by using a laser with an oscillation wavelength of about 405 nm:

~~in said recording layer consisting essentially of a light-resistant improver and an organic dye compound, as a light absorbent, which shows~~ wherein said recording layer exhibits an absorption maximum at a wavelength longer than the oscillation wavelength of said laser but absorbs said laser in a level sufficient to record information in said recording layer,

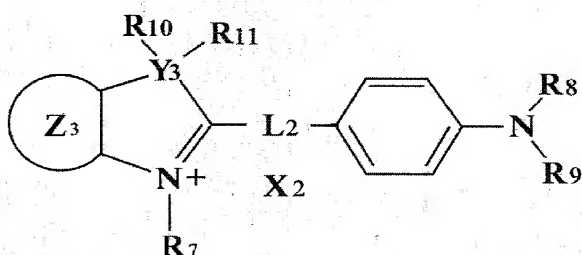
said optical recording medium having a recording capacity of over 15 GB per one side when formed into a disk 12 cm in diameter, by forming minute pits with a pit/groove width of below 1  $\mu$ m/pit at a track pitch of below 1  $\mu$ m, ~~said organic dye compound having an absorption maximum at a wavelength of more than 40 nm longer than 450 nm and being represented by any one of Formulae 1 to 3;~~

Formula 1:



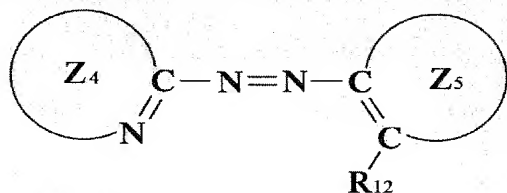
wherein in Formula 1,  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic rings;  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  independently denote carbon atoms or hetero atoms;  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  denote optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups;  $R_3$  to  $R_6$  independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are hetero atoms, the whole or a part of  $R_3$  to  $R_6$  does not exist;  $L_1$  denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and  $X_1$  denotes a compatible counter-ion;

Formula 2:



wherein in Formula 2,  $Z_3$  denotes an optionally substituted aromatic ring;  $Y_3$  denotes a carbon atom or a hetero atom;  $R_7$  to  $R_9$  denote the same or different optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups;  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when  $Y_3$  is a hetero atom,  $R_{10}$  and/or  $R_{11}$  do not exist;  $L_2$  denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and  $X_2$  denotes a compatible counter-ion; and

Formula 3:



wherein in Formula 3, Z<sub>4</sub> and Z<sub>5</sub> denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocycles; and R<sub>12</sub> denotes an acid base.

Claims 2 - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The optical recording medium of claim 1, which uses, in said recording layer, one or more other dye compounds sensitive to visible light and/or a compatible light-resistant improver(s) in combination.

8. (Currently Amended) In an optical recording method to record information by using an optical recording medium comprising a substrate and a recording layer, said recording layer consisting essentially of a light-resistant improver and an organic dye compound as a light absorbent and being provided on said substrate, ~~by using an organic dye compound~~ and irradiating said recording layer with a writing light to act on said organic dye compound to form a pit on said substrate, the improvement comprising

using, as a main organic dye compound for forming pits, an organic dye compound which has an absorption maximum

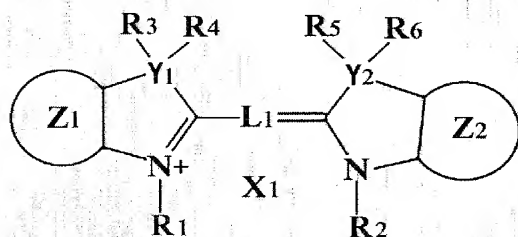
with a wavelength less than 850 nm and substantially absorbs a writing light with a wavelength shorter than the absorption maximum of said organic dye compound, and

irradiating a recording layer on a substrate with the writing light to form a pit on said substrate,

wherein said writing light has a wavelength of about 405 nm,

said optical recording medium having a capacity of over 15 GB per one side when formed into a disk 12 cm in diameter, by forming minute pits with a pit/groove width of below 1  $\mu\text{m}$ /pit at a track pitch of below 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , said organic dye compound having an absorption maximum at a wavelength of more than 40 nm longer than 450 nm and being represented by any one of Formulae 1 to 3;

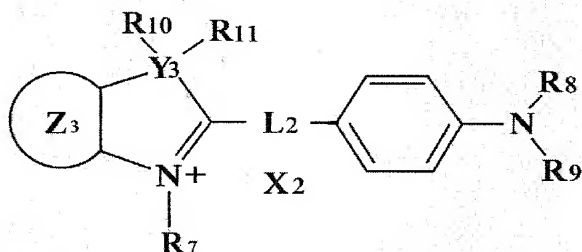
Formula 1:



wherein in Formula 1, Z<sub>1</sub> and Z<sub>2</sub> denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic rings; Y<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>2</sub> independently denote carbon atoms or hetero atoms; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> denote optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R<sub>3</sub> to R<sub>6</sub> independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y<sub>1</sub> and Y<sub>2</sub> are hetero atoms, the whole or a part of R<sub>3</sub> to R<sub>6</sub> does not

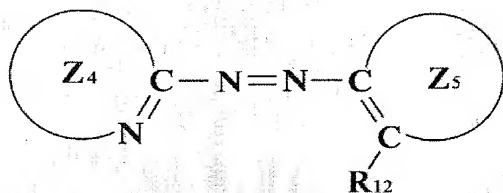
exist;  $L_1$  denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and  $X_1$  denotes a compatible counter-ion;

Formula 2:



wherein in Formula 2,  $Z_3$  denotes an optionally substituted aromatic ring;  $Y_3$  denotes a carbon atom or a hetero atom;  $R_7$  to  $R_9$  denote the same or different optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups;  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$  independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when  $Y_3$  is a hetero atom,  $R_{10}$  and/or  $R_{11}$  do not exist;  $L_2$  denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and  $X_2$  denotes a compatible counter-ion;

Formula 3:



wherein in Formula 3,  $Z_4$  and  $Z_5$  denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocycles; and  $R_{12}$  denotes an acid base.

Claims 9 - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, which uses, in said recording layer, one or more other dye compounds sensitive to visible light and/or a compatible light-resistant improver(s) in combination.

Claims 15 - 18. (Canceled)